

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts with Ms. Knuth

### Literary Genres

Units of study will include nonfiction, fiction, drama, poetry and science fiction. McDougal Littell's *The Language of Literature* is the classroom resource.

### Reading Workshop

Students will be required to read independently during and outside of class as they develop comprehension skills by using reading strategies on a regular basis. Each day's homework is to read for twenty minutes, even on the weekend.

### Writing Workshop

The focus of Writing Workshop will center around the following units:

- Personal Narrative
- Argument Paragraph
- Literary Essay
- Informational Essay

Grammar will be integrated throughout the units.

### Vocabulary

Students will keep a "Word Aware" list to develop their own personal vocabulary as well as assist classmates with their word banks in their brains. Lists will be shared and reviewed as a class and students will be expected to use new words in their writing and speaking.

Grading: All grades will be determined by dividing the points earned on coursework by the total points possible. The grading scale is as follows:

A 100 – 93	C 76 – 73
A- 92 – 90	C- 79 – 77
B+ 89 – 87	D+ 69 – 67
B 86 – 83	D 66 – 63
B- 82 – 80	D- 62 – 60
C+ 79 – 77	F 59 – 0

### Teacher's Rule:

- Don't let your classmates or yourself down.

### Classroom Rules:

- Be present.
- Be ready and willing to learn.
- Do assigned work and turn it in on time or communicate issues with teacher promptly.
- Be part of the learning team.

### Teacher's Guidelines for Self and Students:

- BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD

Speak with integrity. Avoid using words to speak against yourself or to gossip about others.

(Impeccable: free from fault or blame)

- DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY

Nothing others do is because of you. What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream.

- **DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS**

Ask questions. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama.

- **ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST**

Your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick. Under any circumstance, simply do your best.

Classroom Guidelines and Procedures:

- Students are expected to behave in a manner appropriate for learning. Inappropriate behavior will be addressed as necessary for the situation. All students are expected to follow the golden rule.
- All tardy students will have a written referral delivered to the Director of Student Affairs. After three tardies, a student will be required to serve detention.
- Use of hall passes will be recorded, monitored, and regulated as needed. Cell phones should be left in the basket by the sign-out sheet. Students should not have cell phones out in hallways or bathrooms during class time.
- All work should be submitted when due. Late work may be penalized or not accepted at the teacher's discretion. The general practice is a 10% deduction per day late.
- Absent students should seek instructions from the teacher for missed lessons and assignments. Missed work should be submitted in a timely manner as determined through the student's communication with the teacher. The general guideline is that students have the same number of days to do the work as students who were present had.

Classroom Agreement:

Students will be asked to sign an agreement that will promote a cooperative and collaborative classroom environment for discovery and learning. Rules are needed to keep order when commitment and engagement are lacking. Students are encouraged to agree to:

- respect all people in the classroom and provide evidence of mutual respect with actions,
- engage as a curious learner and demonstrate engagement by being involved with content and activities,
- perform at your best without comparing yourself to others,
- act with integrity by being honest and responsible, and
- err on the side of love.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Adult for Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have a computer and Internet available at home? Yes/No (circle one)

Please include any other information that you deem important for Ms. Knuth to have.

I have received the syllabus for ELA 7.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_